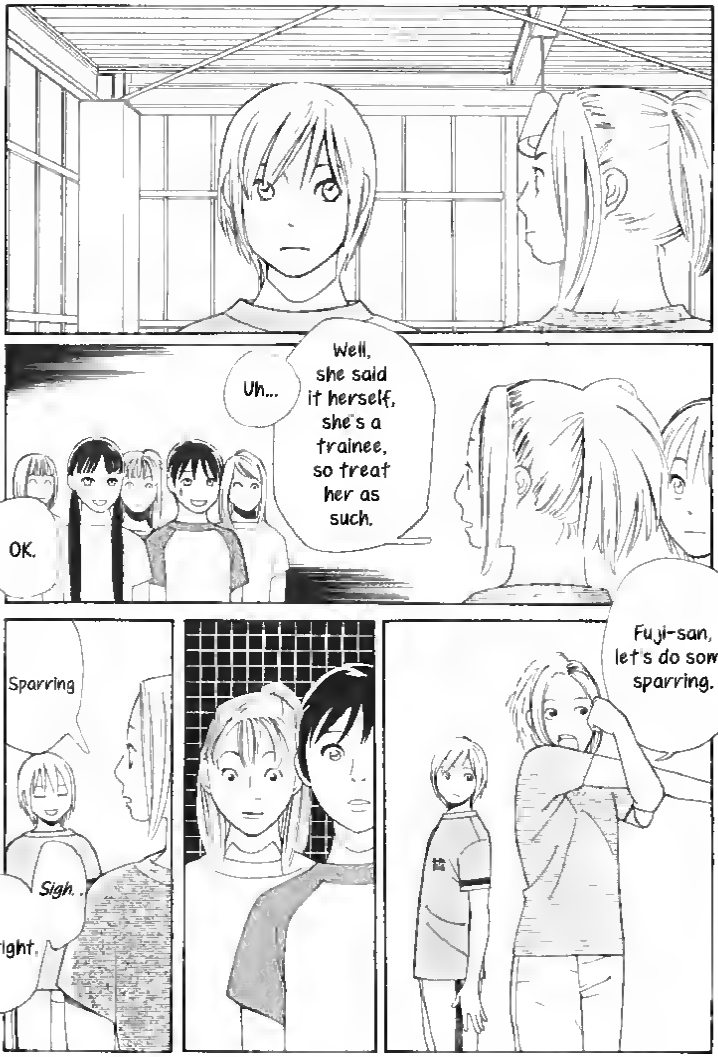
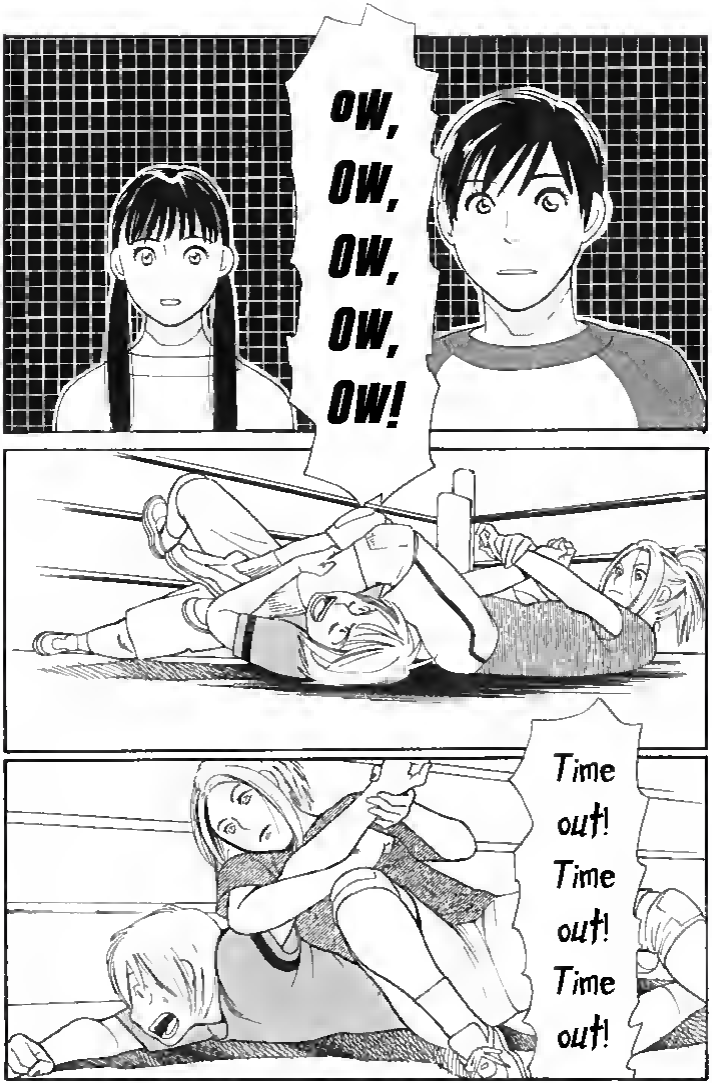
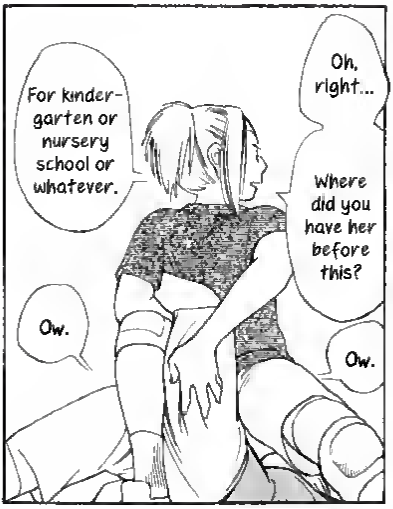
"I'm the new trainee, Fujl Kaoru."
"Nice to meet you."

2. Loser

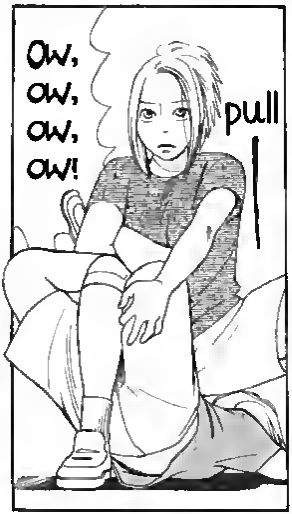

Fuji-san, let's do some sparring.
Sparring
Sigh.
All right.
Uh...
Well, she said it herself, she's a trainee, so treat her as such.
OK.

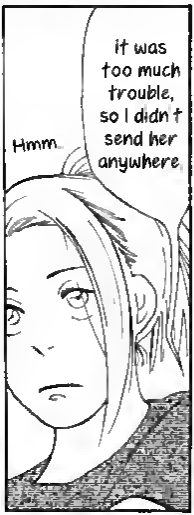

ow,
ow,
ow,
ow,
ow!
Time
out!
Time
out!
Time
out!


For kindergarten or nursery school or whatever.
Oh, right...
Where did you have her before this?
Ow.
Ow.

I've,
I've gotta take Erika to kindergarten!

This kid Hattori kun I went to school with always bragged about never having gone to kindergarten or nursery school


Ow, ow, ow, ow!
pull!


Hmm.
it was too much trouble, so I didn't send her anywhere

If that's what you want to do, whatever.
But she'll be in 1st grade soon and then what're you gonna do?
puuuu!!
Yeah, but that was when you were a kid.
Now we're talking about your kid.
PUSH
What about middle school? High school?
Are you even thinking about the future?
Are you even thinking at all?

flop
flutter
Though I guess it isn't my place to talk.
Right, Mom?
Right?
SQUEEEEZE
Look what you made her do, dummy
Oh, um, What's that?
I just couldn't watch anymore.
So.
Sorry.

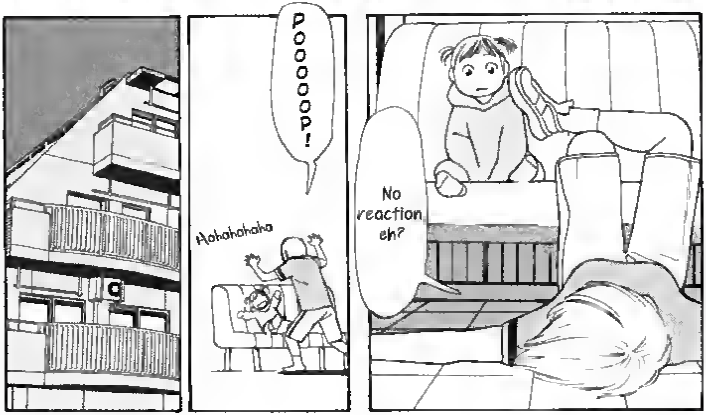
Um
I'm sorry. I really am.
But um,
the thing is,
I was raised by a single mom.
I guess I see her in you
or I relate or whatever.
But it made me think
"oh hey my mom's birthday's coming up".

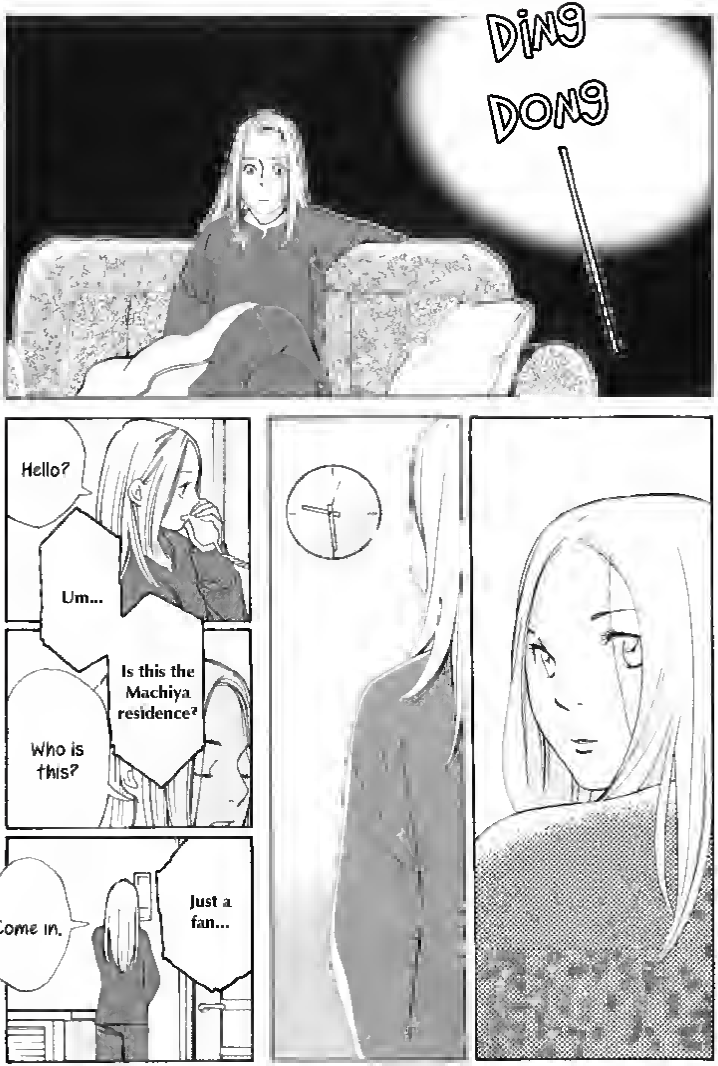
Ha!
tug
HA HA HA
...I don't know why.
What a weird face.
Hahaha!
She's so strange

Maybe I should go, too
I'm going for a run
You kids sure do like that sort of thing
It's not that I think you're a burden or anything
Erika.
Starting now the floor's made of poop.
Poop?
Eeeek!

Mommy turned into poop.
Oh!
Eeeek!
If you fall, you'll turn into poop, too!
...You like that idea, don't you?
Mommy's poop!
I mean ..
Do you wish you had a different mom?
Erika-chan.

I want to hear what you really think.
Is it like "my mom's the best!" or "man, my mom really sucks"?


No reaction, eh?
Poooooop!
Hahahahaha


DING DONG
Hello?
Um...
Is this the Machiya residence?
Who is this?
Just a fan...
Come in.

Watching a video.
What were you doing?
Just a movie.
Wow, always studying, eh?
Not at all.
Did I scare you?
I've always been weak.
.. Yeah
Don't think you're so great just because you beat me

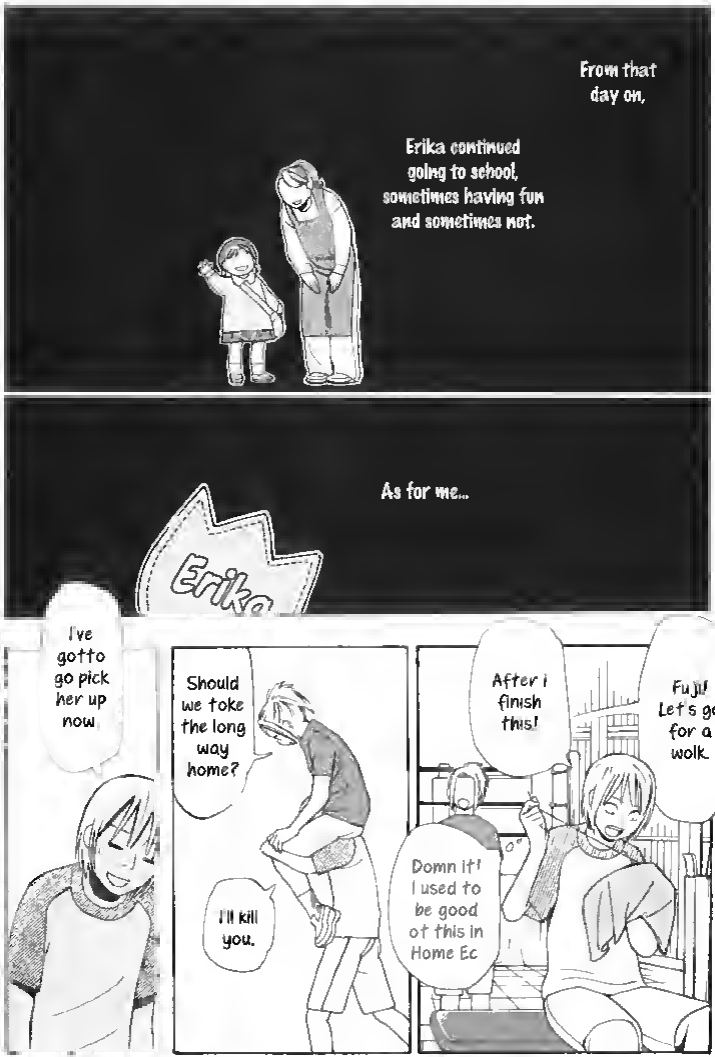
You're the only one who can make yourself stronger. It's not something someone else can do for you.
That's what I think anyway
Easier said than done.
Make me stronger, Yuri-chan..
I'll make up a bed for her. That's no way for a kid to sleep.
That's what they all say.
You're so cute!
Huh?
The boss said she'd buy her a school bag

Fuji-san, everyone's starving!
As for me...
I'm almost done, hang on a sec!
UGH, THIS IS SUCH A PAIN!
It really suits you, Erika-chan!
Thanks to the boss's kindness,
Erika ended up going to kindergarten after all.
You look so grown up!
I should probably stop at the store on the way back. ugh, what a pain
Sigh... It's almost time to go pick her up
You've got your own home, don't you? Go home
Erika-chan, you can take your bag off while you eat
As the new girl, I had to cook for everyone else.

About Erika-chan, though...
Oh, don't worry about that
Sorry for running late this morning ...
Erika's mom
Oh!
Was school fun?
It's boring

She said it's boring.
squeeeeze
YOUR FAULT FOR NOT RAISING HER PROPERLY!
THIS IS
Fuji-san.
Fuji-saaaan.
I DON'T CARE!
AT LEAST I WON'T HAVE TO MAKE LUNCHES ANYMORE ...!

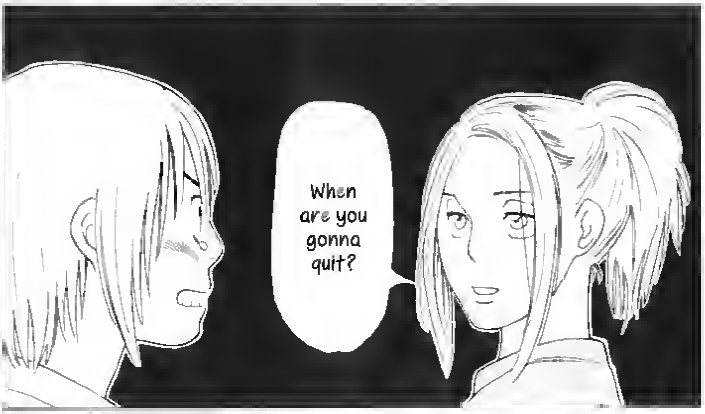
Erika-chan's ready for school.
You should wake up earlier.
...What's with you anyway...?

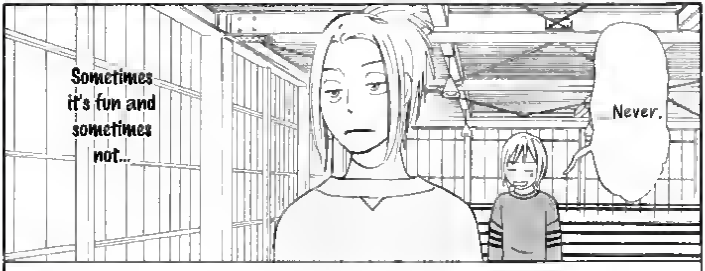

From that day on,
Erika continued going to school, sometimes having fun and sometimes not.
As for me...
Erika
I've gotto go pick her up now.
Should we take the long way home?
I'll kill you.
Domn it! I used to be good at this in Home Ec
After I finish this!
Fuji! Let's go for a walk.

Shut up.
ZZZZZ
MORNING!
And I...
was also sometimes having fun and sometimes not.

I'm off to pick her up!
Nope!
I want candy!
Someday you'll be able to carry a bag of rice, but not now
I can help!
Day after day.
Ugh.
I'm so sick of this.
Thank you for everything.
Sigh. I'm exhausted.

I don't really know all the details.
but apparently she'd been thinking about quitting for a while
She was always fighting with her parents about it.
Oh... she quit.
...what happened?
Then that means a bed's free.
Nice!
Oh!
I didn't mean it!
Oh yeah?
it didn't lighten anything and it didn't sound like a joke.
It was just a joke to lighten the mood
You
really are the worst...





Day

after day

after day...

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